

Serial No.: 09/511,548

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the Office Action mailed on January 2, 2003.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-6 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-6 now stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Nosaki et al.* in view of *Kumashiro*. This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

FIG. 5A

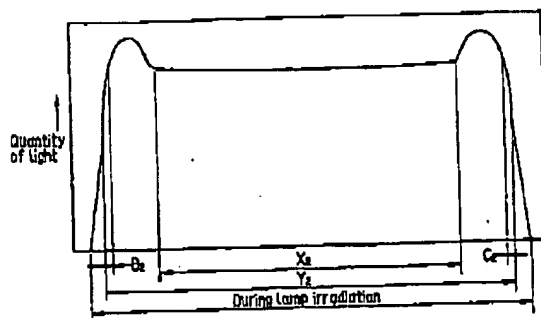
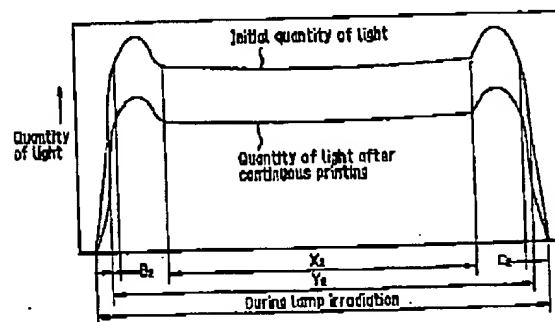


FIG. 5B



Figs. 5A and 5B of Present Application

i. Present Invention

Claim 1 of the present application defines an image reader which includes a second standard white board used to correct the quantity of irradiation light of the readout section, based on the reflected light from the second standard white board. Similarly, claim 2 refers to using the second standard white board to correct the quantity of irradiation light of the readout section, based on the reflected light from the second standard white board. Also relatedly, claims 4 and 5 refer to a second standard white board used to perform correction of the quantity of irradiation light of the readout light source.

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Fig. 5A of the present application (reproduced above) illustrates the quantity of irradiation light from a light source as measured by a first standard white board in accordance with the invention. As represented in Fig. 5B (also reproduced above), the quantity of irradiation light changes with continuous printing. The present invention utilizes the second white board to detect such change and correct the quantity of irradiation light so as to be the same as measured with the first standard white board. (See, e.g., Spec., p. 23, ln. 23 to p. 24, ln. 5).

ii. *Nosaki et al.*

Nosaki et al. describes an image reading apparatus with improved shading correction. Fig. 3 of *Nosaki et al.* arguably shows a first standard whiteboard 21 and a second standard whiteboard 22. The Examiner argues that *Nosaki et al.* (citing column 9, lines 16-68) uses the second whiteboard 22 to correct the quantity of irradiation light of the readout section as claimed in the present invention.

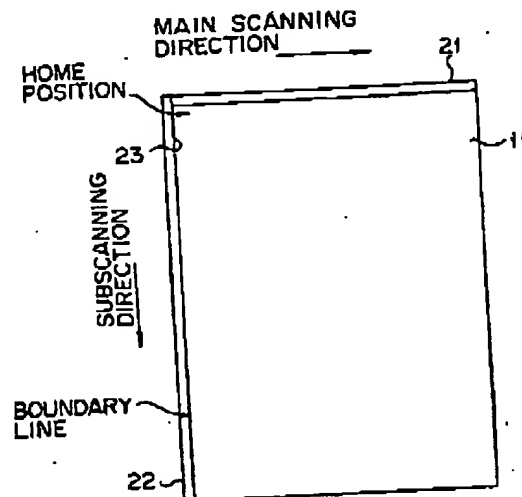


Fig. 3 of *Nosaki et al.*

However, applicants respectfully submit that the data manipulation referred to in *Nosaki et al.* relates to *correcting the shading correction data* rather than correcting the quantity of irradiation light as recited in the present invention. In other words, *Nosaki et al.* is similar to previously cited *Kanbe* insofar as teaching the correction of shading correction data, and not teaching the *correction of the quantity of irradiation light* as in the present invention.

More particularly, *Nosaki et al.* teaches *dividing a white shading corrected signal for main scanning by the white shading value for subscanning* in order to correct a difference in outputs of the image sensor 20 caused by a change in light amount of

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illumination lamp 13 at the shading correction in the subscanning direction. As taught in *Nosaki et al.*,

When light distribution characteristics in a direction of tube length of the fluorescent lamp are changed with an increase in temperature of a tube, the light amount of the central portion of illumination lamp 13 decreases. However, since this change is not so abrupt, the white shading value for main scanning need only be rewritten when a ratio of subscan white shading correction is increased, that is, when the light amount of the fluorescent lamp is largely changed. For this reason, white shading memory 660I for subscanning supplies data indicating a ratio of subscan white shading correction to CPU 60 of image scanner 10 in addition to divider 660k. (Col. 7, ln. 68 - Col. 8, ln. 12). [Emphasis Added].

Thus, it is clear that *Nosaki et al.* does not correct a quantity of irradiation light of the readout section as recited in claims 1-11 of the present invention. Rather, *Nosaki et al.* teaches correcting the white shading correction data by forming a ratio. Accordingly, *Nosaki et al.* neither teaches nor suggests the present invention as claimed.

iii. *Kumashiro*

Kumashiro does not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in *Nosaki et al.* *Kumashiro* also fails to teach or suggest correcting the quantity of irradiation light of the readout section as recited in claims 1-11.

More specifically, *Kumashiro* discloses that the second reference white plate 20 which would be used in the book scanning mode, is used to perform the shading correction in the sheet through scanning mode. (See, e.g., Col. 7, line 66 to Col. 8, line 6). Thus, *Kumashiro* also fails to teach or suggest "a control section controls the readout section..., so as to correct the quantity of irradiation light of said readout section, based on the reflected light from said second standard white board" as recited in claims 1 and 2. Moreover, *Kumashiro* fails to teach or suggest "correction of the quantity of irradiation light of said readout light source is performed based on the reflected light from said (second) standard white board" as recited in claims 4 and 5.

Accordingly, whether taken alone or in combination, neither *Nosaki et al.* nor *Kumashiro* teach or suggest an image reader or method for correcting the quantity of irradiation light as recited in claims 1-11. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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II. CONCLUSION

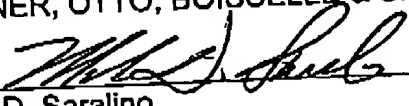
Accordingly, all claims 1-11 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE: September 18, 2003

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